In another World Bank report "India-Sustaining Reform, Reducing Poverty" published in July 2003, following the Bank's review of the country's development policies, some suggestions have been made regarding reduction of India's import tariffs over the next three to four years and to reduce its World Trade Organization (WTO) agricultural tariff bindings to much lower levels. The views contained in the report are that of the World Bank and do not reflect as such the views of the Government. However, Indian import tariffs are well below the WTO bound rates and reduction of peak rates of customs duties and duly rate rationalization has been an integral part of India's economic reforms.

Corporate Hospitals

*289. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any binding on corporate hospitals to provide health care to poor and downtrodden in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the arrangement and the provisions in the law to that extent;

(c) the number of patients who have been provided with free health care by various corporate hospitals, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government propose to put in place a machanism to see that the corporate hospitals fulfil their social obligation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Health, being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to ensure provision of adequate health care facilities to poor and down trodden in the respective States and also to put in place a mechanism to see that the corporate, private hospitals, nursing homes particularly those who have received concession/subsidies from the Government fulfil their social obligation.